

# WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER Syringe Services Programs

## What is an Syringe Services Program (SSP)?



A community-based public health program that provides services to prevent drug use, HIV, and Viral Hepatitis

### SSPs provide services such as:<sup>1, 2</sup>



Free sterile needles and syringes



Safe disposal of needles and syringes



HIV and hepatitis testing and linkage to treatment



Hepatitis A and B vaccination

## How Do SSPs Benefit Communities and Public Safety?

### 1 SSPs Reduce Needlestick Injuries

SSPs **reduce needlestick injuries** among first responders by providing proper disposal. Increasing safe disposal also protects the public from needlestick injuries.

### 2 SSPs Saves Money

SSPs **save health care dollars** by preventing infections.

Testing linked to hepatitis C treatment can save an estimated

**320,000 lives**<sup>1</sup>

Estimated lifetime cost of treating one > **\$400,000**<sup>1</sup> person living with HIV

### 3 SSPs Reduce new HIV and Viral Hepatitis Infections

SSPs **reduce new HIV and viral hepatitis infections** by decreasing the sharing of syringes and other injection tools.

New HIV infections have dropped by **80 percent** among persons who inject drugs since the start of SSPs in the late 1980's

## Have SSPs been effective (or successful) in Michigan communities?

In 2017, Michigan SSPs directly served nearly **8,000** clients



distributing over **672,000** clean needles

**24 percent** of Michigan SSP clients referred to substance use treatment received treatment

SSPs DO NOT INCREASE DRUG USE OR CRIME.

#### Sources:

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